

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 3-9 and 14 are withdrawn. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the language added to claim 1 is found in original claims 3, 5 and 7.

I. Election of Species Requirement

In reply to the June 22, 2005 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species (1) Figure 5, from Group I, and Species (1) Figure 14, from Group II, with traverse. At least claims 1, 2, 10-12, 15 and 16 read on the species of Figure 5 and at least claims 11-13 and 15 read on the species of Figure 14. At least claims 11, 12 and 15 are generic to all species.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/bdh

Date: July 22, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--